

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

Claims 2-3 have been cancelled. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, Claims 1, and 4-23 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-6, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chadwick in view of Hunt et al. (US 5,539,881). The Applicant again respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection and submits that the combination of Chadwick and Hunt still fails to anticipate or render obvious each and every element of the presently claimed invention. In rejecting independent Claims 1 and 17, the Examiner stated that "Chadwick et al. does not teach distributing trust relationships between all members in the trust group and the candidate node by means of the X-node distributing the public key associated with said candidate node to said all members of the trust group." The Examiner then stated that Hunt et al (Col. 1, line 42- Col. 2, line 3) supposedly disclosed this unanticipated element.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the Hunt reference also fails to disclose or teach the above identified limitation. More specifically, in accordance with the teachings of the present invention, any node within the trust group having a trust relationship with the candidate node is first identified wherein this identified node is labeled as an "X-node." The X-node then establishes trust relations between all members of the trust group and the candidate group by distributing the public key associated with said candidate node to all members of the trust group. However, only a network element previously provisioned as a so-called Directory Services Network Element (DSNE) in the Hunt reference has the capability to communicate with a newly identified network element (Hunt, Col. 1, lines 42-47). Accordingly, unlike the presently claimed invention, Hunt does not disclose or teach "any node within the trust group having a trust relation with the candidate node" being the X-node. Furthermore, only

the identity of the DSNE is supplied to each newly reachable network element as it is added to the network (Hunt, Col. 1, lines 49-64). Therefore, the DSNE **does not** distribute the public key associated with the newly added network element to **all other nodes** in the trust group as currently recited. Instead, only after the identity information of the DSNE is supplied to the newly added network element, the newly added network element may then query identity information of other network elements in the sub-network (Hunt, Col. 1, line 64 – Col. 2, line 3). Accordingly, nothing in Hunt discloses or teaches “any node” playing the role of the X-node in “distributing trust relations between all members of the trust group and the candidate node by means of the X-node distributing the public key associated with said candidate node to said all members of the trust group.”

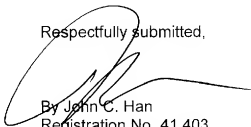
The Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Chadwick in combination with Hunt still fail to anticipate or render obvious the present pending invention as claimed by independent Claims 1 and 17. A Notice of Allowance for the presently pending independent Claims and their respective dependent claims is earnestly requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John C. Han', written over the typed name and registration number.

By John C. Han
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